

Linda Melconian

Assistant Counsel and Legislative Assistant, Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, Jr., of Massachusetts

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Tip O'Neill and Young People

Linda Melconian recalls Speaker Tip O'Neill's willingness to hire and encourage young people.
Interview recorded June 7, 2018

One of the things that I loved about Tip O'Neill in the tenure that I was with him—the 10 years I worked with him—he always encouraged young people to get involved, to do their best. He loved hiring young people. He had, always had interns. He would hire young people to be part of his staff. And he gave all the young people tremendous responsibility. He didn't discriminate between males and females, although I was the first woman that was hired in a professional position in, in the leadership office. And he—well actually, I wasn't the first because Judith Kurland preceded me for a few months, and she—so she was the first woman on professional staff in the Whip Office. But he wanted—he believed in young people. He listened to young people, and he listened to their advice. And, and they were—felt privileged, I think, that he had that confidence and that faith in them, and they wanted to do the best that they could.